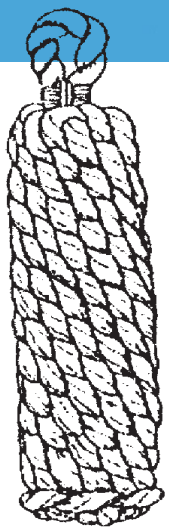
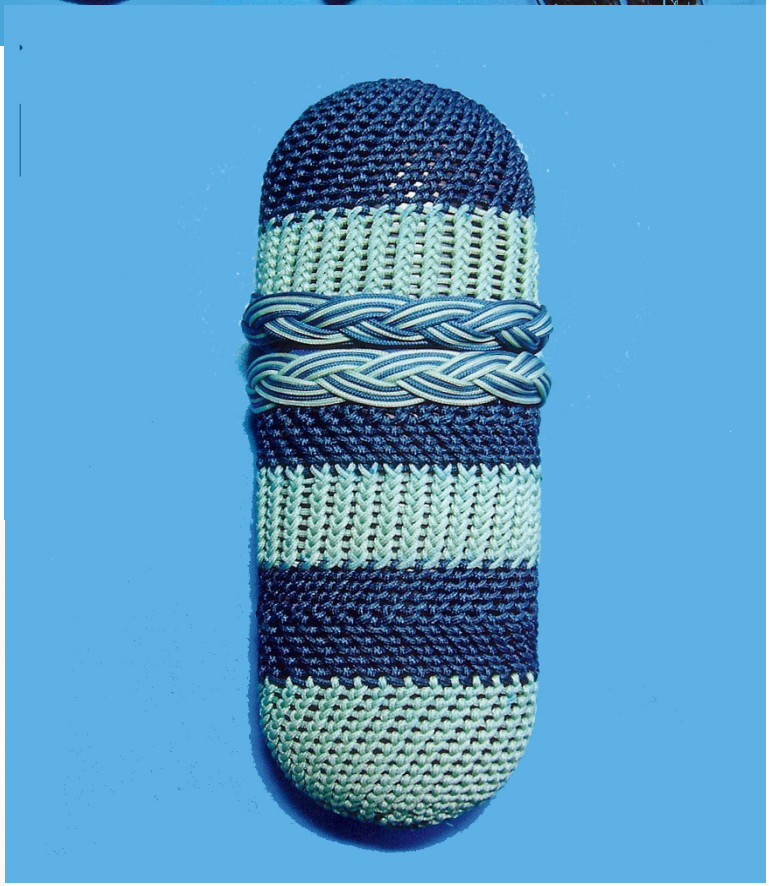
KNOTTING MATTERS

The Magazine of the International Guild of Knot Tyers

Issue 111 June 2011





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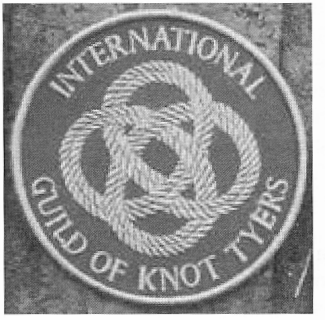

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Issue 111 - June 2011

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EDITOR
Lindsey Philpott
e-mail: knotting matters@igkt.net
HON. SEC.
Margaret Boggs
Tel: 0144 (0) 1865 378104
e-mail: secretary@igkt.net
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
Bruce Turley
Tel: 0121 453 4124
e-mail: bruce.turley@blueyonder.co.uk
PRESIDENT
Dr. Colin Byfleet
e-mail: president@igkt.net
GUILD POSTAL ADDRESS
for all correspondence
Hon Sec, IGKT
78 Marlborough Avenue
Kidlington, Oxon OX5 2AP, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
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Letters to The Editor
The Things You Say!!

Dear All,

Just a little note to say thank you to everyone for the lovely gifts Bruce and I received at the AGM in Coventry on Saturday 7 May. Some of you maybe aware that I had been Treasurer of the Guild for over 20 years.
It was an honour for Bruce and I to receive Life membership to the Guild. The beautiful piece of engraved glass now sits proudly on our mantelpiece. Even though Bruce no longer is a Trustee of the Guild, he will still be continuing the role of Membership Secretary.

Bruce and Linda Turley

Dear Lindsey.,

Please find enclosed the amended drawing of the PERFECTION BOWLINE, plus two more bowlines, the MY MYOSITIS BOWLINE and the LINFIT SLIDING BOWLINE. I have also re-sent an article by Roger Carter KM 108, p. 6, sent October 2010. I find it disappointing, after a further two issues of KM, no-one has commented on Roger Carter's basic mistake on the Hunter and Zeppelin bends. With the Guild's reputation as world-wide leading authority on knots I find it irresponsible that this basic mistake has not been rectified. I hope this can be amended soon.
On the drawing of the Smith-Hunter bend I have shown a different way of tying this knot to the finished knots which were tied when the two working ends were parallel to each other in opposing directions. Ashley shows another way of tying this knot.

Thanks for your time,
Owen K. Nuttall
[***Article on Hunter/Zeppelin on p. 7 & Bowlines in "How I Did It" on p. 39 - 42 - Ed**.]*

Greetings, re: Claudio Colombarini's knot discovery, Issue #110, March 2011
I like to try out all the knots that are in Knotting Matters and I just got around to this issue. I hate to disappoint Claudio, but his knot is nothing more than a two-strand wall knot [ABOK #775] tied with two bights. Take a line, form two bights (like photo 1 in Claudio's article) and seize them with constrictor knots or tape leaving a little space between the seized points. Then tie a two-strand wall knot with the two bights. Then cut the seizings and pull on the two bights to form Claudio's knot.

QED Darrell Ausherman, California

Dear Lindsey,

I have just completed a small charitable task of 'putting some knots' in a small old-fashioned 'Old Holborn' tobacco tin for the local 'Lowestoft Maritime Museum' which they place in a box of 'Interest Subjects' of varying topics' which are hired out to the local 'Homes for the Elderly' to be shown to (Dementia) Alzheimers patients 'Retired Fishermen' to stimulate their senses.

With an A4 chart layout in blue (encapsulated) and with an 'Ocean Plait Mat' in tradititional 'hemp codline' glued and rivetted to the outside lid, all in a small Herring Net; with top draw rope and bottom 'Cod End' quick release slip knots. (All photographed) and I hope transferable to other agencies! It is amazing how many hours it has taken.

I do have other topics of interest to publish but goodness knows when!
All the best. John Halifax @ Endeavour Knots,
Lowestoft. UK.
[***Please join with me in wishing John a full recovery - good to hear from you! - Ed***]

From the IGKT web-site www.igkt.net in the Chit-Chat Forum regarding Baden-Powell's Lanyard by John Staley:

I was going to add this notification onto the string but I feel that it might get lost among all the newer topics that are being put forth. So I do apologize for sneaking back into the top of the line-up. It's just that I feel as though I've stumbled onto a knotting mystery that MUST be solved and I'm a dog with a bone!

I began this quest nearly a month ago. I have a little information (which I will share with you but perhaps we, as the Guild, need to apply some gentle pressure on those with the information if we are to solve this puzzle). Let me begin by sharing with you what I have uncovered to date. The original lanyard, as told to me by the Scout Association, Gilwell Park, is 1 FATHOM long. Also I have a very old picture, circa 1911, of a boy scout with lanyard. Due to the 11kb rule, I cannot post this picture - however you can view it at, http://knotcanada.webs.com/apps/photos/ The sliding knot may be a TH but I'm not quite certain. Perhaps one of our members will be more comfortable in identifying this knot. I still cannot find any reference to the stationary knot on which the knife or whistle is attached.

To date, I have approached The Scout Association who provided me with the info on the length and the picture from their archives. I have requested information from the British War Museum, the Canadian War Museum and the South African Boer War Museum, none of whom have replied. I spoke with the Director of History at the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario.

He advised me that he was most interested in learning the outcome of my search because his late father was the Scout Commissioner for the province of Quebec and he had been a cub and scout. He did not have any information to provide other than my best bet probably would be within the uniform guidelines of the British or Canadian army at the time of the Boer War. Currently I am awaiting a response from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police regarding the origins of the side arm lanyard that they wear with their red dress tunic.

Some readers might wonder how I got from the Boy Scouts to the Boer War and ended up with the R.C.M.P. Well, here's the story (in part, so far):

Following the 217 day Siege at Mafeking (Second Boer War- Oct 1899 to May 1900), Colonel Baden-Powell was assigned to form a 'Policing force'. This group was paramilitary in nature and was named the South African Constabulary. Many of the men who served on this force were former Canadian military men who still wore their Stetson head gear. This is the same kind of hat worn by the Mounties today. It has been suggested that B.P. borrowed the dress from the South African Constabulary as the template for the scout uniform. This hypothesis seems sound since it is well documented that B.P. liked the Canadians Stetson hat and chose this as the official boy scout head gear. Due to Canada's British Empire ties, it's probably safe to assume that most British regulations regarding uniform code would apply.

More so in the case of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. This police force was assembled, much in the same way as the South African Constabulary, to bring law and order to a fledgling country. It started out with British/Canadian troops wearing the traditional red tunics and pill box hats of the day. This force became known as the North West Mounted Police. Although the pill box hats were replaced by the Stetson, the present day Mounties still wear the traditional red tunics as their dress uniform. If the lanyard (still worn today) followed the tradition of the vintage tunics, it is very possible that this is the same lanyard style adopted by B.P. for the scout uniform.

If you don't agree with my thought process so far, please feel free to share your ideas. Some might think that this is a lot of effort for a simple lanyard, but I believe that I'm just following our basic philosophy of not allowing knotting to fade away into history. But just as important, the scout lanyard (although always an optional adornment) is an interesting piece of scouting history.

I truly believe that this knowledge needs to be unearthed and shared with the members of the Guild and all present and future Scouters. If anyone is as intrigued as I, please send off an email to the British War Museum archivist and request that they blow off the dust and help us to solve the lanyard mystery. Information still needed: Knots used, original material (cotton, flax etc), cord thickness.

John Staley

In a letter sent to Barry Mault, Hon. Sec, Lloyd Jones of Ceredigion, Wales writes:

Dear Barry Mault,
I have enclosed a photo of my collection of knots (100) if you wouild like to include it in Knotting Matters.

I have started writing a book on knots in the Welsh language, and would like to include a chapter on the history of the IGKT. Perhaps you could write a small chapter on IGKT for me and I will translate to Welsh for my book [***Barry is helping with this***]

I make a lot of rope and halters, or head collars, for cows and horses, and demonstrate at shows in South and West Wales.
Yours sincerely,

Lloyd Jones

Lloyd is seen here with his collection - anyone care to name them?

Netting an International Guild

by Carol Wang, {http://www.daoofsilk.com/}

INTRODUCTION

The IGKT is indeed an International Guild, with members on five (5) continents (based on the seven-continent model) and 28 countries, based on my 2001/2002 membership book (yes, yes, but that's the one I found on the bookshelf). But, there is no getting around the fact that it is an anglophone Guild. As English is the only language I read with any fluency, this works reasonably well for me, but I wonder how much richer Guild interactions could be if more languages and therefore (?) more countries could be actively involved. Especially since so much knot information can be transmitted via images.

Now, there are strong French and Dutch branches, but what about Germany [***take a look at the most recent membership list - Ed***], Italy and Spain, to name some other big European countries off the top of my head? In particular a Spanish language publication could service a large number of other countries at the same time. There is also a huge gap with respect to Asia (4 from all of Asia in 2001) and India (none in 2001) in membership and participation, which is depressing, since they have such active and extensive knotting traditions, about which only tantalizing hints are generally known in the West. Indeed, there are groups, both formal and informal, in Korea, Japan, Taiwan, China and Singapore among others. Perhaps they are doing just dandy without us, but it would be lovely, don't you think, if we were on speaking terms?

HOW TO DO IT

Knowing about or even desiring these connections, what can we do? Firstly, we can carry on as before and hope they find us. This passive approach has been fairly demonstrably ineffectual for the most part.

With a little more effort we can take the passive-aggressive stance. We can put more of our content out where our targets will (hopefully) find it. So, where might that be? Since we are talking about the *passive* aggressive approach, then local ex-pat[riot] population centres, cultural festivals and that sort of thing. *Or* leverage the great collator of niche interests: the Internet.. This then becomes a very specific search engine optimization problem. Start with publishing good and useful knot content. Quality knot reference content that people will want to find and re-visit.

Then translate selected tracts. Text brings the search engines. Images will help keep the people. The ideal, beyond (or before) attracting the masses, is to attract the 'bridge' people. The people with the right combination of language skills and interests to seek out and find content not in their native language, and hopefully curate and direct their less fluent countrymen (and women) towards content that would be more challenging to absorb, but not too difficult with a guide and interpreter. Then - help them contribute (or argue, critique and correct).

The most active stance would be to research these known and unknown groups, then send ambassadors (letters or packages physically or by e-mail) to explain, show and demonstrate the perks and advantages of joining forces - or at least tell their members about us. A good excuse for a vacation to that distant location?

While this previous discussion has been about attracting members from the non-English speaking population of the world, similar techniques should work if you wanted to target, say, embroiderers or theatre-riggers. Research their interests and lingo, then create useful documents that include information about French knots or rigging counterweights, etc.

I know that I am totally a passive-aggressive gal, but I can become active with the right incentive and opportunities. How about you? Who would you like to see join the Guild?

Carol Wang
{http://www.chineseknotting.org/}

What is the mystery object?

Lindsey,

My mate Mick Betts showed me the item in the attached photo [***opposite page***]. He thought readers might be intrigued so I photographed it for him and sent it on.

A regimental dog collar, something for pulling bombs out of holes?

Somebody must have the answer.

Kind regards

Mike Howarth

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AGE RANGE	Under 20	2	1.2	3	1.2	**5**	**1.2**
	20-30	8	4.9	2	0.8	**10**	**2.4**
	30-40	10	6.1	7	2.8	**17**	**4.1**
	40-50	20	12.2	28	11.4	**48**	**11.7**
	50-60	42	25.6	46	18.7	**88**	**21.5**
	Over 60	82	50.0	160	65.0	**242**	**59.0**
INTERNET ACCESS	Yes	162	98.2	181	74.2	**343**	**83.9**
	No	3	1.8	63	25.8	**66**	**16.1**
	Weekly	28	17.8	16	9.5	**44**	**13.5**
VISIT WEBSITE	Monthly	45	28.7	39	23.2	**84**	**25.8**
	Less Often	84	53.5	113	67.3	**197**	**60.6**
FORUM MEMBER	Yes	49	29.7	16	8.0	**65**	**17.8**
	No	116	70.3	185	92.0	**301**	**82.2**
	Currently do so	74	56.1	83	43.5	**157**	**48.6**
TALKS, DEMOS	Like to	58	43.9	108	56.5	**166**	**51.4**
DOWNLOAD KM	Yes	117	72.7	95	42.2	**212**	**54.9**
	No	44	27.3	130	57.8	**174**	**45.1**
REQUIRE KM ON PAPER	Yes	125	76.2	196	84.1	**321**	**80.9**
	No	39	23.8	37	15.9	**76**	**19.1**

Membership Update

The data from the members who responded are summarised in this table. The figures are split between those who sent me a paper form and those who completed the details online. There were a total of 410 replies – about 40% of the membership – which should be sufficient to be able to draw conclusions about the membership generally. Where email addresses have been provided these have been updated to our records and other comments will be taken into account by Council when making decisions.

Barry Mault

A Letter From Our President

It was with mixed feelings of pleasure and responsibility that I recently accepted the position of being your new President at the AGM at the Coventry District Scout Centre at Rough Close. I hope that I can live up to the fine example set by my predecessors and will try my hardest to further the work of the IGKT.

We had previously been informed of the decisions to resign their positions by our Secretary and Treasurer. It is with great regret that we have had to lose Barry's services as Secretary, brought about by the serious change to his health during his time in office. He has tidied the Guild's constitution and made the job for his successor clear and well-organised. I shall miss his worldly wisdom. We also lost the services of Linda Turley as Treasurer – after an amazing 20 years service. It is impossible to thank adequately Bruce and Linda for their huge contribution to the Guild and it is most unlikely that their time on the Council will ever be matched.

Your Past President, Dan, made a presentation of a beautifully engraved memento to great applause. Despite leaving the Council as Trustee, Bruce will continue with the very time-consuming and important job of Membership Secretary, for which I am most grateful.

Three new Trustees were elected to the Council - Ben Selfe, Peter Hennessey and Lonnie Boggs – and I look forward to working with them over the coming months and making use of their fresh ideas.

During the AGM itself we had no volunteers for either Secretary or Treasurer and the meeting was closed with this big void still to be filled. Fortune then smiled, in the persons of Margaret Boggs and Ian Schofield, who kindly stepped forward to take up those two positions respectively. I am really grateful to both of them for their help and look forward to a happy and productive relationship with them both.

As always, the minuted business over with, the rest of the weekend passed with much good humour and a considerable number of knot and rope demonstrations to many local Scouts, Guides and their parents and friends. Immediately following the business session, we had an excellent illustrated talk on the teaching of knots in Japanese Scouting by Mikio Kogure, which impressed the whole audience.

I am pleased that we are now getting back to being able to plan venues for meetings a little farther ahead than has happened of late. There are full details on p. 43 of the 2011 half-yearly meeting, which will be in Gloucester on October 8/9 and advance notice of the 2012 AGM which will be in Hoylake, Wirral on May 5/6.

My objectives for the next few months are to

- get to know the new Council members better
- move the Guild's items in storage - to give Bruce a well-earned rest from this responsibility and to make use of a cheaper facility
- find a solution to the storage of the books in the Guild's library. Gordon Perry has done this for many years and has given advance notice that he will have to relinquish this job. A volunteer would be very welcome!
- expand the Guild's educational sponsorship. We have accumulated significant funds and, as a registered charity, are duty-bound to make use of them.
- find how we might best recognise the Guild's 30th anniversary next year.
- explore the possibility of the Guild's publishing monographs by members.

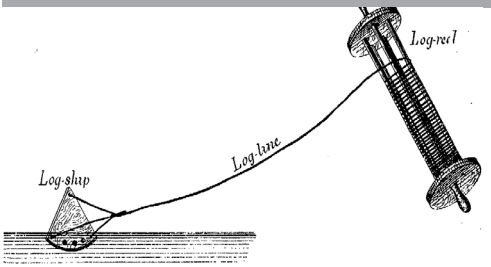
Our supplies booklist, with a few exceptions, has not been changed recently. The advent of electronic publishing has made it easy and economic to produce print runs of fifty or so copies. I'm sure many of you have interesting skills and experiences which we could make available to members.

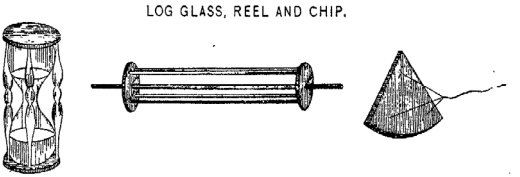
The AGM was most excellently organised by Colin Grundy and Jane Bamford, with the assistance of their friends and contacts in the Coventry Scouts. The venue was excellent, with spacious buildings in a lovely setting just outside the city. Everything went very smoothly and nothing was too much trouble for Colin and Jane and they have our sincere thanks. During the weekend we were assisted (and served at dinner) by young members of the Scout Network who are going to the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden at the end of July. They were all efficient, cheerful and very smart in their new Jamboree outfits – a credit to Coventry Scouts.

Dr. Colin Byfleet

Streaming the Log

by Peter Davey





Log and log-line, and sand-glass

From Samuel de Champlain voyages (Paris 1632)

The first mention of the 'common, 'hand', 'ship', or 'chip' log' appears in 1534 when it was described in William Bourne's *A Regiment for the Sea*. A log line and glass have been tentatively identified among the artefacts recovered from the 1545 wreck of the Mary Rose. For over three centuries it was the major tool used for Dead Reckoning and an essential element in what was known as the three L's "Lead, Log and Lookout". (On long voyages it became "Latitude, Log and Lookout].

Bourne believed that the nautical mile measured 5000 feet and used a 30 second glass. In 1637 Richard Norwood, after measuring a meridian arc between London and New York, (for the purpose of accurately measuring the exact dimension of the earth) published in The Seaman's Practice,^ advising seamen to remark their log lines on the basis that the nautical mile was 6120 feet. The nautical mile is now accepted to be 6080 feet [***now changed again to the International Standard of 6076.11568 ft or 1852 metres in Systeme Internationale***] and the proportion should be 47 ft three inches for a 28 second glass. Even though Bourne worked on a Nautical Mile of 5000 feet it still gave an accurate measurement for Dead reckoning in that, if the distance between land falls was 500 nautical miles, and the log gave a speed of 5 knots, the time taken would be 100 hours. When using Bourne's log, the distance was unknown or presumed, his log would give a speed of 6 knots and the time taken would still be 100 hours. With various speeds being sailed and logged, for the voyage, the Navigator would still have a reasonable estimate of when he could expect to make landfall.

In Ships of war and East Indiamen, it was usual to stream the log once every hour, and in all other vessels once in two hours, and if, at any time of the watch, the wind has increased or abated in the intervals so as to affect the ship's velocity, the deck officer generally makes a suitable allowance for it, at the close of watch. However, most navigators used 48 feet, this being 8 fathoms and were easier to measure, one fathom being the span of man's arms. It also meant that, when combined with dead reckoning, they would arrive late at their destination. An early arrival could lead to disaster. The modern version of this is a [***braided or non-twisting***] line, which is marked at constant intervals with a series of knots (Various methods involving knots, bunting, leather etc were used) in the form of a piece of knotted cord worked between the strands. They should be 47 feet 3 inches apart; thus having the same relation to a nautical mile (6080 feet) as 28 seconds has to an hour. (If you divide 28 seconds into an hour you get 128 and one nautical mile divided by 128 is 47 feet 3 inches [***now amended to 47 ft 5 and 5/8 inches***]) The time was measured by using a glass in which grains took 28 seconds to run from the top to the bottom bulb. This gave them the speed in nautical miles per hour or knots. Knots per hour are incorrect.

Before this method came into acceptance, there were a number of methods. One method, known as the Dutchman's* log, which was favoured by the United Netherlands Chartered East India Company (VOC). After the mutiny of the Bounty and Bligh's epic voyage that he took, while in passage from Batavia on a Dutch packet he made the following remarks in his journal "They use no log. I was told the Company does not allow it. Their manner of computing their run is by means of a measured distance on the ship's side. They take notice of a remarkable patch of froth, when forward of the measured distance, and the call is made abreast, counting the seconds till it is abreast of the forward end of the measured distance." This method needs no sandglass but a chip of wood was sometimes necessary when there no marks in the water. Some other nationalities used chants to time the water or chip. The Spaniards and Portuguese for long would have none of these methods They said the 'way" of the ship knew the speed of the ship just as a driver knows the speed of a car.

The log was also used to discover the currents. As described in Sir Jonas Moore's *A New System of Mathematics* "When there's a smooth sea and not much wind, heave out the boat taking into her three or four hands, a compass log-line and half-minute glass …… fasten a good lead weight to sink the board, turn your glass as you veer out the log-line, set the drift of the log and your compass, so shall you know whether there be a current or not; and if any how it sets; and the rate of driving….."
He also noted that "the bigger the weight and board is that the boat is to be rid of, the less will be drift" By this tone of Sir Jonas Moore's last sentence, it is apparent that he was not convinced, but was content to go along with the method until something better came along. Captain Cook also used this method.

The equipment used is a sandglass timer, a hand-reel containing the log-line and a weighted wooden 'log-ship' (or log-chip) attached to the outboard end of the line. The log-ship has a peg on one corner which is designed to disengage when a strong jerk is applied. This expedites the retrieval of the log-ship. The log-ship is designed to remain as near as possible stationary in the water and to drag the line off the reel. To achieve this, 15 fathoms of 'stray' line was streamed before the glass was turned. The line has had various markings over the ages, with the present method of marking the knots travelled by inserting a thin line with the appropriate number of knots attached. A line without any knots is used for half a knot. This also has the advantage that the speed can be measured at night by feeling the number of knots. When measuring the ships speed the crew can simply us his arms width (6 feet or 1 fathom) to ascertain the speed number of 8ths to add to the knots. Clippers used a 14 second glass with all speeds doubled. Even so a clipper sailing at 20 knots would have to stream 160 fathoms of measuring line plus the 15 fathoms of 'stray' line. The shock of stopping a line at such a speed was considerable. There is a famously macabre story, hopefully apocryphal, of a clipper clocked at 20 knots and a Chinaman, when a Chinese crewman who nipped the line was shipped overboard and lost. Those who used the log-line knew of its short-comings and adjusted the distances as they saw fit. Captain Cook, who was the first navigator who could accurately measure his Lat and Long, adjusted his intervals by 2 and a half feet.

Three crew members are necessary: One to hold the line, one to turn and call "cut" when the sand is depleted, and the other to stream and nip the log line. On the Barque James Craig when streaming our log (normally once per passenger cruise) the speed is normally within a few percentage of the GPS. Occasionally, there is a wide discrepancy, but, thanks to Hollywood and the movie "Saving Nemo", everyone has heard of the East Australian Current (EAC). I blame the difference on the EAC and the fact that the GPS gives the speed over the ground whereas the Log gives the speed through the water.

Peter Davey

Seaman (sail), Barque James Craig.

*Nautical miles
The origin of the nautical miles rests with the realisation that the world is spherical. In 580 BC, Pythagoras put forth a theory to obtain the diameter of the Earth; then, in 200 BC a Greek, who was the keeper of the library of Alexandria, used the following method. He measured the distance north to south between Aswan and Alexandria (using a method devised to measure in the Nile valley used after the Nile floods) Aswan lies on the Tropic of Cancer, and here a pillar was set up at the time of the Summer solstice when there was no shadow. The length of a pole set up at Alexandria on the same day enabled him to work out an angle that could be used with Pythagoras' Theorem, that gave a diameter that was within 4% of today's measurements. The distance of a nautical mile is based on the circumference of the earth at the equator. Since the earth is 360 degrees of longitude around at the equator, and because each degree is broken into 60 "minutes", that means there are 360 by 60 = 21,600 "minutes" of longitude or nautical miles around the earth.

+The heat and moisture can have a considerable effect on the glass, so as to make it run faster or slower and it was checked by pendulum in the following manner: On a round nail hang a string that has a musket ball fixed to one end, carefully measure betwixt the centre of the ball and the string loop over the peg 39 and one eighth inches, then swing, beginning at the second time it passes and the number of swings made during the time the glass is running out shows in seconds [the time or quantity] it contains. Ground egg shells were often used to replace the sand because they do not absorb moisture.

#Dutchman log.
If the chip or froth takes 10 seconds to travel a 100 foot [distance], she is making 60 feet per minute or 36,000 feet per hour. – 36,000 feet is roughly six nautical miles - so her speed is 6 knots.

^ THE SEAMAN'S PRACTICE became one of his best known works of its time, because it was a standard book on practical navigation. In 1700 the 17th edition was printed, twenty-five years after Norwood's death.

The remarkable thing about that book was the fact that, until it came out, navigators had a very imperfect concept of the length of a degree or a nautical mile. Norwood's work to determine these things began by his observing the meridian altitude of the sun at a point near the Tower of London in June 1633. He repeated this procedure two years later in the middle of the city of York. He used a sextant with a five foot radius and by carefully measuring distances between his observation points and making corrections to allow for deviations, he came up with a figure only two-thirds of one percent off what is recognized today as the correct distances discovered through modern scientific measurement. This was a brilliant piece of work on Norwood's part considering the crudity of his instruments and the fact that no-one else had attempted to do the measurements so vital in navigation.

The Seaman's Friend – A Treatise on Practical Seamanship
T. Groom and Co 1879. Richard Henry Dana* Jr.
*Author of "Two Years Before the Mast (1840).
The Mariners Mirror.
*Journal of the Society for Nautical researc*h
Windjammers. Time-Life Books.
Oliver E. Allen'
Falconers Marine Dictionary. 1830. Cadell and Davies.
The Strand.
Patterson's Illustrated Nautical Dictionary. 1850. 99 Fourth Avenue, New York.
A Regiment of the Sea. William Bourne. The Hakluyt Society Cambridge
University Press. First published 1574.

CRUSOE, GUNN AND IRONS ... ASHLEY

sent by Geoffrey Budworth

Robinson Crusoe and Ben Gunn are two story-book castaways with whom many KM readers are familiar. Joining them on Sunday 5th February, 2006 via the half-hour weekly radio programme 'Desert Island Discs', in which celebrities are interviewed about their lives, and required to choose just eight pieces of music they would take with them if marooned on a desert island, it was the turn of that quintessentially English actor of stage and screen, Jeremy Irons. Towards the end of the broadcast, he was asked the customary extra question, what book would he take with him (apart from the Bible and the complete works of Shakespeare, which are always provided). He replied "...a length of rope and *The Ashley Book of Knots*". Excellent!

The Polymer Predicament

8th instalment on a philosophy of knots
by Knut Canute

'A keen eco-warrior named Stephen
Grew hemp to make rope for this reason;
Synthetics are causes
Of dwindling resources,
While plant fibres re-grow with each season'

Geoffrey Budworth, *Knot Rhymes & Reasons*, 2001

According to Issue #415 (September 2008) of New Internationalist magazine, an immense gyre of discarded plastic rubbish is caught up in the circulating currents of the mid-Pacific Ocean. This includes hundreds of abandoned fishing nets, a few of which have been tagged with radio transmitters, by scientists from California's Algalita Marine Research Foundation, to be tracked by satellite. Such 'ghost nets', they have discovered, are rogue killing machines. For instance, a single piece of netting, 1.5 km long [***approximately 820 fathoms***] - estimated to have been adrift for 90 days and to have travelled 60 miles - contained 99 seabirds, 2 sharks and 75 salmon (all dead).

Plagued by a human population close to seven billion, and still growing, planet Earth is close to (and some say has already passed) the tipping point beyond which global catastrophe is inevitable. Whether or not predictions of an apocalypse are right and, if so, whether or not it is our fault remains debatable. Nevertheless, we are exhorted by eco-forecasters to moderate our consumerism, with its concomitant waste, pollution, and loss of biodiversity, or face a perilous and impoverished future. Harming the planet, they assert, is ultimately self-harming.

Which seems to require the IGKT - and that means each one of us - to question what share in all of this is due to our 50-year dalliance with synthetic ropes, cords and twines? The polymer revolution actually began as long ago as the late 19th century with *Collodion*(1862) and *Celluloid* (1869), followed by *Bakelite* (1909), *Rayon* and *Cellophane* (1920), *Vinyl* or *PVC* (1926), *Nylon* and *Neoprene* (1935), *Polyethylene* (1936), and *Tupperware* (1945). Not until the mid-20th century, however, did artificial cordage products from the petrochemical and biochemical industries become widely available. Even then, for a time, they remained a novelty. I recall how, at a London Boat Show in the 1970's, a display comparing and contrasting time-honoured vegetable fibre with the new-fangled stuff was headlined 'From the Ropewalk ... and the laboratory.' Today synthetics predominate, with more than 50 different groups of plastics and hundreds of varieties, from which almost all the stuff we knot, splice and embellish is made.

What to do for the best? Should we now boycott, eschew, forgo, renounce and shun the use of synthetic cordage products; preach, praise and promote the re-adoption of natural fibre stuff created from renewable, sustainable field and forest growth? Or is the polymer predicament a chimera, a fanciful and unrealistic monster summoned up by a burgeoning eco-industry and over-active governments, which should not alarm or occupy us needlessly?

No philosophy of knotting can, it seems to me, be complete until we have made up our minds on this issue.

For an analysis of the opportunities and threats, read *The Revenge of Gaia: Why the Earth is Fighting Back - And How We Can Still Save Humanity*, by English scientist and environmental guru Dr. James Lovelock, published by Allen Lane of Santa Barbara, California [British ISBN 0-7139-9914-4]

Kia ora Dan and others,

My old boss from Carter Observatory days, Frank Andrews, fortuitously arrived home for a rum, just after I received the Presidential Cup!

Among other things as well as being our best astronomical communicator, Frank is a professional photographer. I did send an earlier photograph, taken with our digital camera, but among the six photos that I received today, I have attached two for your perusal. They have been taken with Frank's new Nikon and are thus large files. My apologies if they are too big for your computer [***no problem Tony***].

Should you decide to publish them, I request that Frank be acknowledged as the photographer, please [***so noted***]? The first one is of me reading the wonderful letter from President Dan, that was included in the mailing of the miniature cup. I reckon that it would take about 40 double rums!

The second is when Frank and I drank to the cup. I hadn't had time to clean the new cup and we agreed that we couldn't wait to christen it! This was done shortly after the photo was taken. I assure you that it has been shown to all who have visited home and has had more rum in it! Among Frank's great qualities is that of a brewer. We are drinking one of his rums - he also does what I call "An elixir of the Gods" - a barley wine, a beer brewed 30 years ago and about 14 - 15% hence it being classed as a wine. I can only take about 300 ml of that!

All the very best and, once again, Dan, you have honoured me superbly, thank you!!! Arohanui (lots of love and affection)

Tony [sent by Tony Fisher, president of NZ Chapter, IGKT - photographs next page]

Tony Fisher with the Presidential Cup at home in New Zealand. Photos by Frank Andrews

The 2011 AGM and Knot Weekend

From our Midlands Stringer

The sun shone and promised a good weekend, as members and friends gathered at Rough Close Scout Campsite in the heart of England. Some brought caravans and campervans, some bunked, while a few hardy souls chose to camp in tents.

Representatives came from some eight countries plus the United Kingdom, making it yet again a truly International gathering. Encouraged by a previous article in KM, many of those present displayed their connection with Scouting, a theme that was to run throughout the weekend.

Having stowed their gear or pitched their tents and caravans, everyone took the opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones. For those stopping on site, meals were arranged and taken in the Norton Cabin before gathering around the bar in the Rough Close Retreat. Later, while some chose to hold an impromptu campfire in the woods, the rest went to bed in preparation for the next days' activities.

Alas, the Saturday morning brought grey skies and some rain, but this did not dampen the enthusiasm of Guild members as they gathered for the day's events in the MacLean Centre (named after a former Chief Scout of the UK). Many displays of ropework and knotting had been set up on the previous day, and these were added to by new arrivals. Some eighty members and their guests had gathered for the day.

Dan Machowski, our retiring President, formally opened the meeting. He reminded us of those members who had passed away during the previous 12 months before holding a minute of silence in their memory. The chair was then handed over to Colin Byfleet.

Following the usual business part, dealing with minutes and accounts, it came to the election of Trustees. As mentioned in the previous edition of Knotting Matters, Colin Byfleet was proposed as President to follow Dan Machowski, and his appointment was duly ratified.

Bruce and Linda Turley were both standing down after many years on the Council and Barry Mault was standing down as Honorary Secretary. There being no volunteers to the posts of Secretary and Treasurer before the meeting, much discussion took place on the need for these posts to be filled and what they might entail. Rumour has it, that two likely candidates have come forward since? Three members did volunteer to fill vacant posts on the Council; Lonnie Boggs, Peter Hennessy and Ben Selfe. Along with Dan Machowski who will continue as a trustee, they were all welcomed.

Some debate followed over the announcement to hold the 2013 AGM in the USA. The reasoning behind this was explained to the members present. Colin Byfleet promised the meeting that the Council would consider the points put by the floor. A request was also made to reinstate the Membership Handbook in hard copy format.

As has become customary, Dan presented an engraved shot glass to Colin Byfleet for his role as Chairman, and also to Linda Turley for her role as Treasurer. A number of further presentations were then made on behalf of the membership for services to the Guild. Bruce and Linda Turley were conferred with Life Membership of the IGKT for over twenty years service on the Council, Bruce as Membership Secretary, Supplies Secretary and trustee; Linda as Treasurer. Engraved cups were presented to Dave Walker and Barry Mault for their roles as Honorary Secretaries.

Dan then announced the recipient of the Ditty Bag Award to Joe Bates of the USA. He reminded the meeting that the award in memory of former Texas Branch member, Gary Sessions is awarded to the best ditty bag, chosen by a panel of judges. This year's President's Cup, in memory of former IGKT President Brian Field, was awarded to Colin Grundy for services to the Guild. Bruce and Linda Turley were also presented with a magnificent engraved glass trophy in recognition of over two decades of work for the IGKT. Colin Byfleet made the final award to Dan Machowski in recognition of his period as President.
Following lunch, the afternoon was open house for Scouts and leaders to come and see what we knot tyers got up to. As well as displays and show and tell, two presentations were given with a Scouting theme. Mikio Kogure gave a very informative talk of the place that knots have in Japanese Scouting, and Colin Grundy posed some ideas on partnership between the Guild and UK Scouting.

As is usual at these meetings, Sheila Pearson and Pauline Bentley encouraged members to buy tickets for the many items on display on the raffle table. David Pearson (who needs a microphone?), conducted the raffle in his usual inimitable style.

Saturday evening saw the room transformed to host the now traditional Knot Tyers Supper. Some seventy members and guests sat down for the meal, one of the best attendances yet. Scouts, from the Coventry contingent to this year's World Jamboree in Sweden, played host to the meal and did a splendid job of waiting on and clearing away. Following the toasts, to the Guild, Scouting and absent friends, a collection was made that raised over £200 towards the cost of sending these Scouts to the Jamboree. The evening was rounded off in convivial friendship with background music supplied by the Frayed Knots.

Sunday had been promoted as a chance for the Guild to fulfil its educational role by providing knot workshops for Scout leaders. A number of members had been recruited to teach subjects as varied as dragonflies and rope making to net making and lashings. Sadly, the expected numbers of leaders did not materialise. Not to be put off, an invitation was put out to Scouts and Guides who were camping on site and soon the hall was buzzing with excited young people all learning what fun knot tying could be.

All too soon it was time to pack away and go home. Bit by bit, the room was returned to its former state and the only thing left was the memories of another great weekend of friendship, knot tying and wonderful hospitality provided by Coventry Scouts.

Until the next time. [**additional photographs in center-spread**]

Below: Sheila Pearson and Willeke van der Ham try their hand at swing braiding.
[***I have heard of swing dancing but this one is new to me - Ed***]

scouts
be prepared

Top left, clockwise: Coventry Jamboree squad Scouts, receiving knotted gifts from the Guild; Immediate Past President Dan Machowski receives engraved cup from Incoming President Dr. Colin Byfleet; Europa Chang-Dawson tries her hand at crate-climbing; Mr. Woggle aka Paul Wright; Mikio Kogure explains the Lobster Knot to Colin; Liz Pinder concentrates on her knot; Scouts and Guides enjoyed making flat knot dragonflies; friends chat at the Knot Tyers Supper; center, Bruce and Linda Turley receive their trophy from Dan Machowski.

Hunter's Bend Vs Zeppelin Bend

by Owen K. Nuttall

Ref: Roger Carter's Article, KM #108, page 6

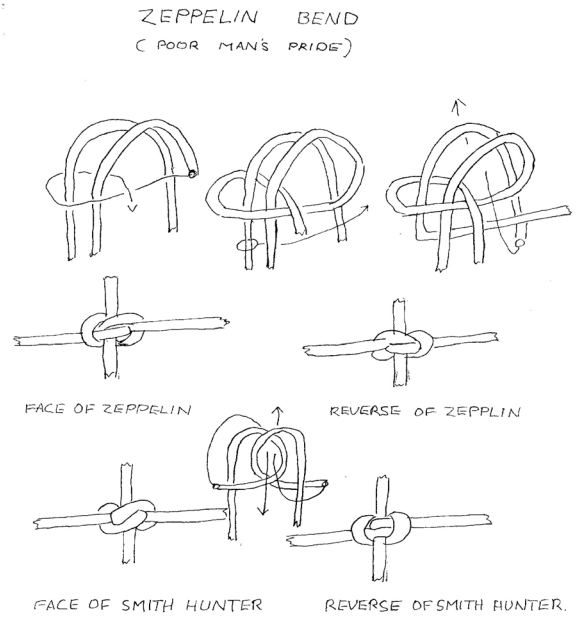
The Hunters Bend is not the same as the Zeppelin Bend.
Doctor Edward Hunter first tied this knot many years before the knot was published in the Times in 1978. The original tyer of the knot was Phil Smith, a rigger while working on the waterfront in San Francisco in 1943. Its first publication was in Knots for Mountaineering by Phil Smith in 1975.

The Zeppelin Bend [***aka Rosendahl Bend - Ed***] is associated to Charles Rosendahl, an airship captain (the original tyer unknown). Captain Rosendahl used this knot in preference to any other knot for mooring his airship.

In the 1980's Ettrick W. Thomson tied this knot differently to Charles Rosendahl. First thinking this was a new knot, later discovering it to be the Zeppelin Bend. He named his method of tying this knot "Poor Man's Pride."

The two knots - the Zeppelin Bend and the Smith-Hunter Bend, are two entirely different knots, apart from being two interlocking overhand knots.

Owen K. Nuttall



What Knot to Believe?

by Giles Camplin with permission

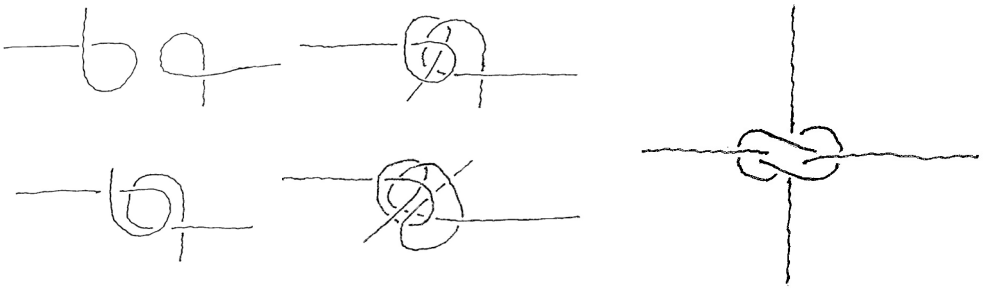
from his original publication in The Noon Balloon and edited for length and content

As a long-time member of the International Guild of Knot Tyers, my curiousity was aroused recently by a short item which appeared in The US Naval Airship Association's Journal, The Noon Balloon - issue # 82, (Summer 2009). The item started like this : "Mark Lutz found this on the intemet: "Zeppelin Bend or Rosendahl's Bend: This was Lieutenant Commander Charles Rosendahl's preferred bend for mooring the zeppelin that he commanded, which is where the name of this bend comes from. …"

The item then went on to explain (with the help of the pictures below [**edited for clarity**]) how to tie this useful knot. But the reason it attracted my interest is that I have come across this story previously, and to be blunt, I don't believe it. In fact, the first time I ever came across the story, doubt was immediately cast on its veracity, added to which, from my own experiences and subsequent studies of airship history, I cannot for the life of me think where and how this knot could have been of much use in the actual mooring of large airships. Don't get me wrong, I don't doubt that it had its uses on the US Naval airships, and I am happy to accept that it may well have been devised by US Navy airship personnel, but I don't believe that Rosendahl had anything to do with it or that it was used for "mooring zeppelins" as is claimed.

But I am getting ahead of myself. First let us look in detail at the actual knot itself and the instructions for tying it as they appeared in the item in The Noon Balloon issue # 82 :

"The Zeppelin Bend or Rosendahl's Bend : Make a loop in end of rope which is coming in from the left, making sure that the end curves upward and crosses over on top of the main part of the rope. The end of rope coming in from the right should form a loop with the end curving down and crossing behind the main part of the rope (Picture 1). Notice that the two loops are not mirror-images of each other, and notice that the end of rope coming in from the right does not pass through the loop on the left. Place the loop on the left on top of the loop on the right (Picture 2), then bring the end of rope on the left through the center of the knot from behind (Picture 3), then bring the end of rope on the right through the center of the knot from the front (Picture 4). Notice in Picture 4 that the two ends of rope are passing through the center of the knot from different directions (one from behind and one from the front). Dress and set the knot (Picture 5)."



Now, let me take you back to 1980 and the source of my doubts about the origins of this story. They stem from the following article which I first came across in Goodyear's Wingfoot Lighter-Than-Air Society Journal : Vol. 28 No. 1 Nov-Dec. 1980. Pages 4-5 : [NB - The Figures mentioned in the following article are not shown here because they are plainly of the same knot as is pictured above.]

"THE FORGOTTEN ZEPPELIN KNOT

by Lee and Bob Payne

(reprinted from BOATING magazine March 1976, with permission of the authors)

The U.S. Navy's last rigid airship was dismantled in 1941; their last blimp was deflated in 1962. The end of the Navy's lighter-than-air program also ended the use of an extraordinary knot that could be of special value to every boatman. Joe Collins is an able seaman currently sailing aboard the modern container ship, President Madison. Fifty years ago he was an instructor in marlinespike seamanship at the Naval Training Center in Norfolk, Va. His students were airshipmen assigned to the Los Angeles, the Navy's new German built zeppelin, as well as to the Akron and Macon two immense flying aircraft carriers then under construction at the Goodyear Zeppelin Corporation. Collins recalls, "Charles Rosendahl was commander of the Los Angeles. Rigid airships were new to the Navy and a lot of old-line battleship admirals still hadn't fully accepted either airships or airplanes. The Los Angeles had to prove herself, and Lt. Commander Rosendahl couldn't afford to take any chances. There was only one knot he allowed me to teach the new airshipmen either for bending lines together on the airship or for use on the mooring lines. I called it the Rosendahl bend. "The Los Angeles was 658 ft. long and weighed 46 tons, but with 2.5 million cubic feet of helium inside her hull she floated in the air as light as a feather and, when she was properly weighed off, one man could hold her in his hands. But she was subject to heavy and unexpected surges in the wind, just the way a ship is in the sea. And as with a ship, the docking operations were the most critical and dangerous part of working with a dirigible. Most of the accidents occurred when the huge machines were being brought in or out of the hangar, or were being tied to the mooring mast. Everyone had to be on his toes. We used the Rosendahl bend because of its superiority to the carrick bend, bowline, or sheet bend, all of which are more likely to jam under a heavy load. It distributes the load evenly throughout the knot, and could always be untied in a hurry even after a sudden surge of the Los Angeles had put tons of extra weight on it.

"After the war, I left the Navy and began sailing on merchant ships. In the past 30 years I've visited just about every deepwater port in the world. Knots are my hobby. I've read every book on knots that I could find and I've never seen the Rosendahl bend in any of them. It's as if it had been forgotten along with the airship, and that's a shame because it's the most useful knot I know for tying two lines together. It's especially good for tow, mooring, or anchor lines, where a heavy strain can jam an ordinary knot and make it almost impossible to untie." Once you get the hang of it, it's an easy knot to tie. Joe Collins' s airshipmen had to learn to do it in the dark, and best of all, you can always untie it. That is as important to the boatman today as it was 50 years ago when there was a zeppelin on the other end."

****

So there you have the story. Seemingly, a nice little personal insight into airship history, and I personally would have accepted it quite happily if I had not then immediately read the Footnote that was appended to the article when it was reprinted in the Wingfoot Journal. The Footnote read : "Lee Payne of Balboa, Calif., one of the authors, wrote to me [Presumably the Wingfoot Editor (1980)] about this article, "Admiral Rosendahl wrote to me [Lee Payne] to say that the Los Angeles' crew was trained at Lakehurst rather than at Norfolk as stated in the article, and that he had never heard of the Rosendahl Bend but that "it is slightly possible that no one ever told me of it. In any event I am glad you think so highly of it." "The story was told to me [Lee Payne] by my brother, who was sailing as second mate aboard the President Madison. Joe Collins was the helmsman on his watch. The fact remains that this is an outstanding knot that is not listed in any of the books on the subject. Perhaps some of your readers will recognize it."

Now, I remember being mildly amused by this story when I first read it, in the 1980s, and especially by the fact that the man it was said to be named after, because he supposedly was insistent on its use, had apparently never even heard of it! But I thought no more about the story until the arrival of the Internet. Since when, several people, over the years have sent me links to web-pages that either have told the same story word for word, or repeated parts of it, or were plainly written from the information contained within the original. However, few, if any, of them have made any mention of the footnote and of the fact that Rosendahl himself apparently disowned this knot and thereby debunked the story of its origin. Nevertheless, the story is now "out there on the Internet" and it will doubtless continue to echo round the ether for years to come, regardless of the fact that it may not be true.

And so to my own personal reasons for doubting that this knot, (which incidentally, in the intervening years has now made its way into some books on the subject) was actually used for "mooring" large airships. Firstly, it is necessary to recognise that the term "mooring" can mean an awful lot of things. Like so much to do with ground handling there is no exact definition of it, nor of what it entails. However, we can make some reasonable assumptions and taking a broad view of the processes involved in ground handling we can say that there are arguably only two actual procedures where a knot might be invariably employed (as opposed to being used only rarely, for example, to repair a broken rope). These two procedures are - the tying down of the "mooring lines" inside a shed; and the connection of the airship to its "mooring mast" at the end of a flight. I shall deal with these in turn.

Way back in 1967 when, as a callow youth, I paid my first visits to Cardington and was dumbfounded by the chilly vastness of the airship sheds, I was privileged to meet there, and to be given occasional advice by, one or two old men who had actually worked with, and in some cases flown on, R100 and R101. They were still there, working towards their impending retirements in those extraordinary, gloomy, corrugated-iron cathedrals, haunted by the ghosts of departed colleagues and memories of their own youthful involvement in the British Imperial Airship Programme. (Naturally, aged 19, I foolishly never thought to ask them much about it!)

[**to be continued in Issue 112 - Ed**]

Response to Ed. Letter

by Rob Chisnall

Hello Lindsey,

As always I very much enjoyed the latest issue of Knotting Matters [KM 109]

In response to Don Lindsley's inquiry about a new knot, I have not been able to find the exact structure depicted in any of my references, but I'll keep looking. The closest match I found was the Orthogonal Bend on p. 91 of "*Symmetric Bends; How to Join Two Lengths of Cord*" published by World Scientific in their series on Knots and Everything (Vol. 8, 1995) by Roger E. Miles. The Orthogonal Bend differs from Lindsley's Bend in that the wends [working ends] of the former do not cross when exiting.

This nice little text is a comfortable blend of the practical and the mathematical and Miles offers some simple graphical methods for 'inventing' new symmetrical bends. I'm currently investigating ways of modifying his methods to accommodate asymmetrical bends, as part of my research into developing a behavioural knot-tying model for the purposes of forensic knot analysis.

Similarly, inquiries from doctors about adjustable surgical knots, from climbers regarding 'soft-ascender' or 'Prusik-style' hitches, and from other specialized knot users can lead to challenges in searching for comprehensive information. The web and some texts are rife with repetition, misinformation, re-invention, unique nomenclature and unrecognized variations.

This interesting bend Don has presented (I'm partial to symmetrical bends) highlights the need for the development of a rigorous, efficient and easy method of cataloguing and identifying existing and potentially new knots. This is something various members have mentioned to me in correspondence over the years. Initially Frank C. Brown broached this idea by proposing a system akin to that used by scientists to keep track of chemical copounds (I'm guessing primarily organic compounds). Geoffrey Budworth offers several methods in "Knots and Crime" (1985). Most recently, Tony Fisher has resurrected the idea of a universal knot catalogue - perhaps a practical version of various topological invariants.

It would be a massive project requiring much time, co-ordination and input from a variety of disciplines, but developing a standardized, global cataloguing system that incorporates a few useful mathematical methods, yet is accessible to all knot users and researchers - one that can evolve as new knots and other data are incorporated

without confusion, ambiguity or repetition - would be a highly worthwhile undertaking. The systematic enumeration of every known knot, its various names, applications and origins, and its relationship to other knots would take years. (Maybe when I retire...?) Then there is the added task of multiple language translations.

I believe the most important step would be to initially construct a framework for data entry that anticipates all contingencies, a framework that would allow simple system modifications to be introduced if exceptions were discovered along the way.

Perhaps this is a long-term project the Guild should contemplate undertaking?
Regards to all.

Rob Chisnall

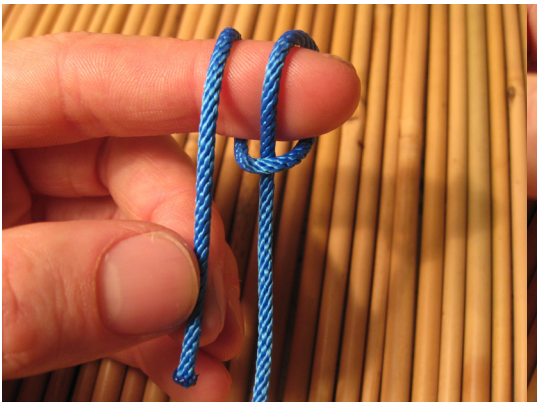
Matso's Bend?

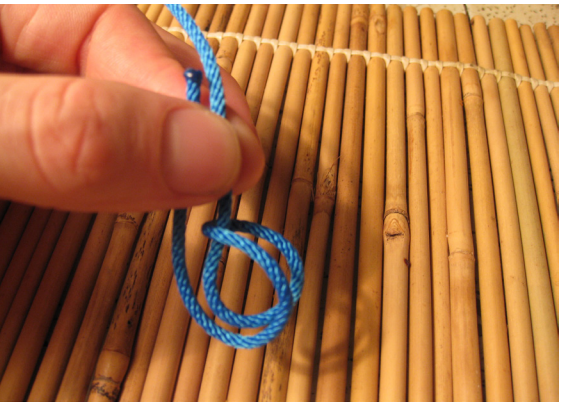
by Mats Sawatsky

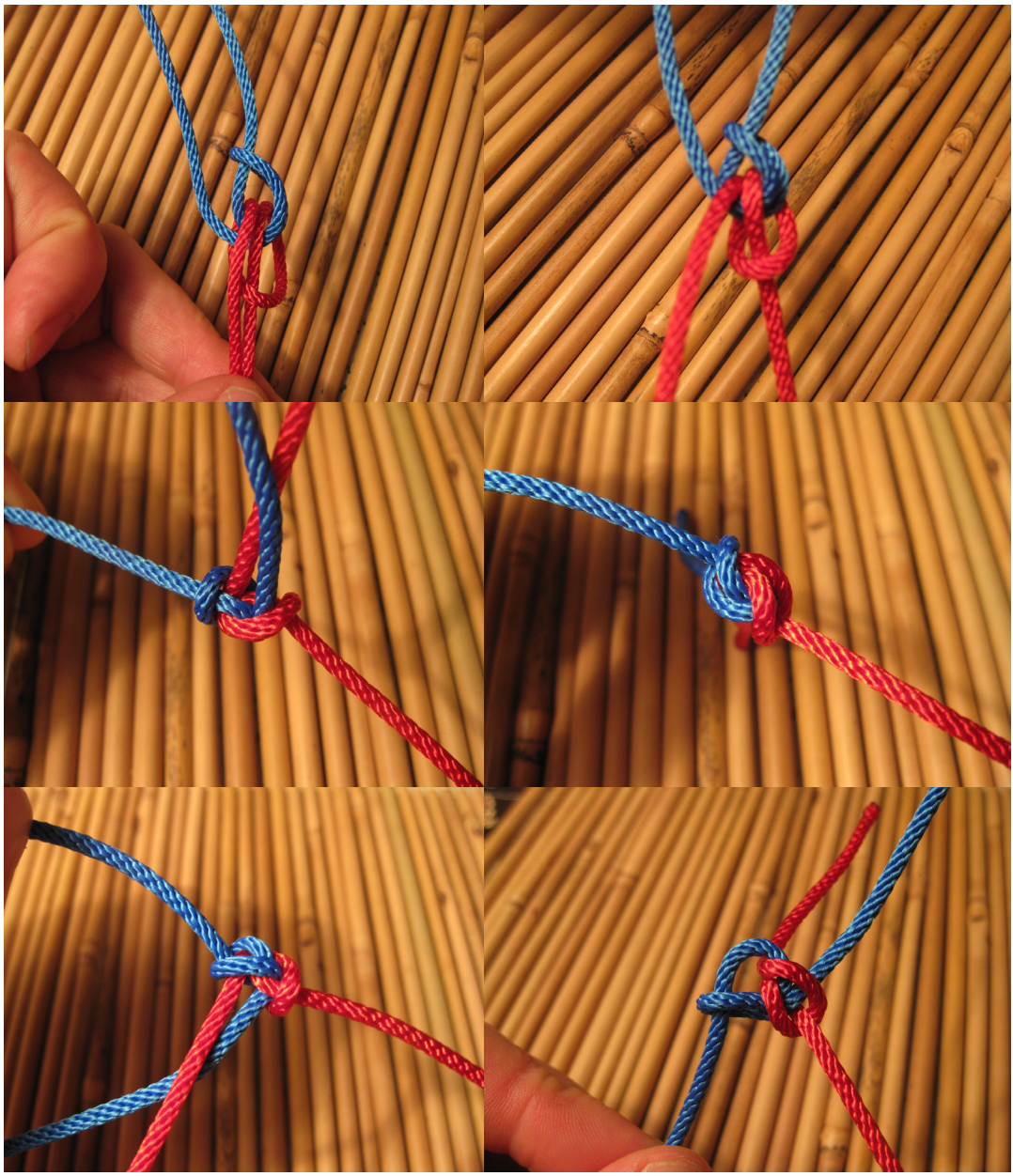
Dear Lindsey,
Thank you for your reply - here goes nothing. I may have discovered a new way to join cordage. I would love to share it with the knot world. I have never found this bend in any book - it is very effective.

Tie a Munter's Hitch around your finger and bring the lead back, forming an almost-clove[***almost ring-hitch?***]. Rotate the knot so that the end is nearest you. Tie another Munter's Hitch in the same fashion around the two loops of the first MH, dress the knot a bit, by pulling on the working part and standing part together. Now, set the knot by pulling hard on the two opposite cords. To untie, break the knot as you would a bowline.

Matt Sawatsky, arborist, knotty person







Square-rigger Festival in Germany

by Karl Bareuther

Dear Lindsey,
From May 12th to 15th there was a tremendous square-rigger festival in Travemunde, Germany. The reason for the festival was the 100th aniversary of the squarerigger "Passat" - a maritime museum ship for years in Germany.

IGKT members from Netherlands and Germany were invited on board the "Passat" to demonstrate practical ropework and fancywork as well. Our tables were set up on the main deck in front of the main mast. For all of us these were trmendous moments! All day long, for both days, the ship was crowded by visitors who were very interested in our practical demonstrations and presentations of sailors ropework and fancy ropework.

Overall we were proud for being invited to that outstanding event. I think we have presented the Guild and its aims in a good manner. Now, of course, we have to wait another 100 years to take part in "Passat 200"! What a shame....

Attending for the Guild were:
Dick Hollander and his wife (NL)
Frits Otts and Efina (NL)
Astrid Gollusta and Horst (GE)
Gerd Heinrich and Christa (GE)
Karl Bareuther (GE)
[***below Astrid is teaching a young enthusiast***]

Maritime Festival in Picton, New Zealand

Lindsey,

I appreciate that I have missed the deadline for the March issue, but have only just received the material from Forrest McDougall today [March 6, 2011]. The festival ran over its time schedule because of popular demand!

Chapter member, Forrest McDougall, organised a Guild display in January and February this year as part of the Seaport Trust Maritime Heritage Display. Finally I have a picture of Forrest in his rigging loft with some of his work and would be thrilled if it could be published sometime. For a professional sailor, one of the best seamen on the New Zealand coast, according to Pat Cunningham - Forrest is publicity shy! So often the way.

Normally the participant members of the NZ Chapter would have been at Picton and hold our AGM but, for a variety of reasons, this was not to be this year. Forrest was asked to put on this display and he set about gathering work from all over! Its success can be measured by the fact that it went on for an extra week.

Forrest asked other Guild members to send in items and among work from the Chapter's own Gallery were works from: Sarah Ford, Maldon (UK); Willeke Van Der Ham from the Netherlands; The Late Harold Scott and the Late Brian Field (UK); Geoffrey Budworth (UK); Richard Hodge (NZ); Rod Orrah (NZ); Pat Cunningham (NZ) and Tony Fisher (NZ).

Forrest reports that the organisers appreciated his display and the public interest was high. [***Seen here in part of his rigging loft with a 50-rung overside evacuation ladder - the display is shown at left***]

Cheers,
Tony Fisher - Rigger and President, NZ Chapter, IGKT

Sphere Covering of 45 faces

by Luc Prouveur, translated by Charles Hamel

This sphere covering, with a quite regular appearance, has the advantage of being rather quick and easy to throw directly on the hand. To cover the inner sphere in a satisfying way you will need to double the first pass. This will take a little more time, but the general result will be more satisfying. Dressing and tightening are relatively easily done.

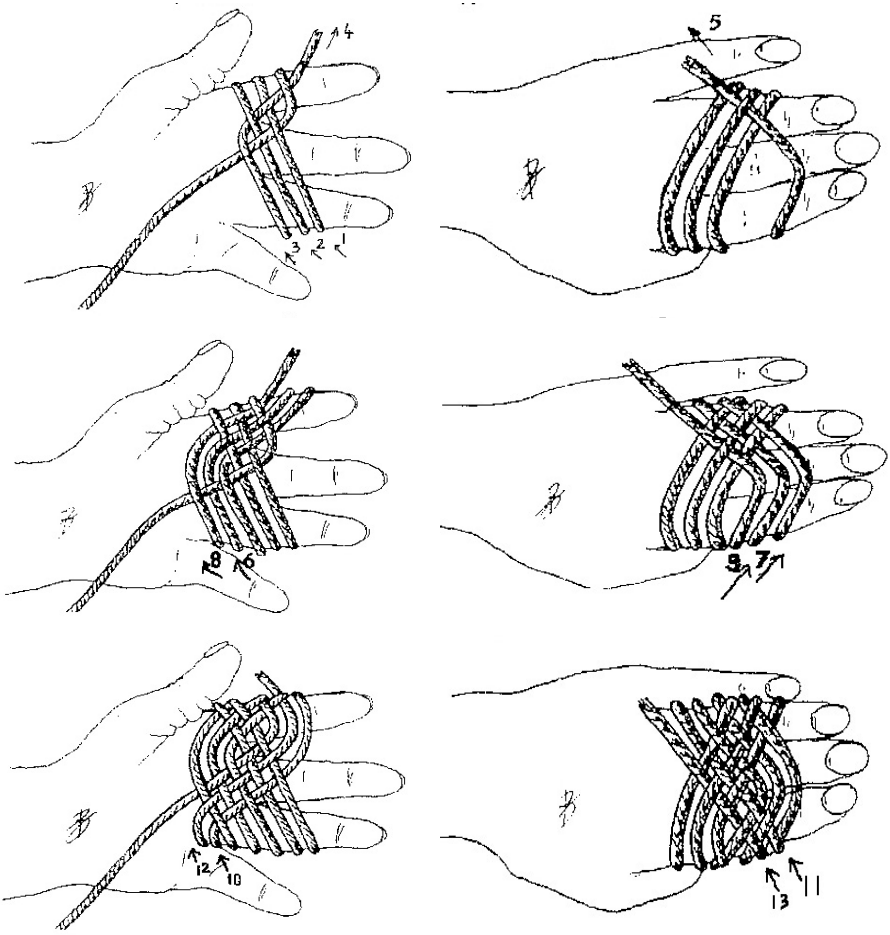
With the thumb, hold the standing part in the palm of your hand. Take a first turn around your hand, the running part crossing the standing part. Lay a second round turn (towards the wrist, between thumb and first round turn) without crossing the first one, the running part going under the standing part. Make a third round turn without crossing any of the turns already done, the running part this time going over the standing part. As soon as the standing part has been crossed, come back towards the fingertips, going under the third-laid turn, over the second and under the first [see stage 1].

Turn your hand so as to see the back of it. There are three parts, side by side and not crossing each other. Make the running part come back towards the wrist while going over the first round turn. Under the second one and over the third to finish the fourth round turn. [see stage 2]

Lay a fifth turn parallel to the preceding one while inverting the order of over-under crossings so that the crossings thus made are in opposition to the existing ones. Make a sixth turn in the same fashion, the crossings always in opposition [see stage 3]. Having come back to the palm of the hand, without crossing the standing part, make the running part go towards the fingertips, the crossings being identical to those of the standing part you are following on a parallel course. The running part comes out from under the first spiral [see stage 4].

On the back of the hand, come back towards the wrist alternating over-under crossings and going through the center of the half-knot formed by the first and the sixth crossings [see stage 5].

Finish the first pass by laying an eighth spiral parallel to the preceding one, the crossings being opposite to the one made previously, so as to get a structure where all the crossings alternate over-under [see stage 6]. To finish the covering, there only remains to make the necessary numbers of passes (doubling, tripling, etc.), then take the slack out and dress carefully.



Stage 1 to stage 6, top to bottom, left to right

How I Did It
Needle Hitching and Grafting

by Dave Lambert

From left to right on the front page:

Green eyeglass case with needle hitching and rib hitching. The star knot is on a belt loop, so it can be used as a stopper knot if I want to - just tuck under my belt. It is the same as the blue case but with the top cut off and a leather lid put on. A 3/4-inch copper tack is used with the end bent over to build the knob knot on.

Blue case has a Turk's Head center wrap to cover the joint

Needle-hitched awl

Brown reading eyeglass case overhand and underhand grafting (aka half hitching)
A spyglass - the brown strands are overhand hitching and the black strands are underhand hitching - still working on this with a total of 160 strands

My tips for needle hitching:

Make sure to lay the first row of stitches down perfectly. If the space between the stitches is equal to 3 strands in width the hitching looks good; if the space between is about two and a half strands wide, the hitching looks exquisite; beware - if it is only two strands wide you will have problems! A single mistake on the first row will show through the whole project.

The second row - this is where I always want to give up. It's tough to do, but don't give up because the third row and onwards is a breeze to do. All the stitches and strands fall into place. I have spent all afternoon - 4 or 5 hours - just getting the first two rows just right. Keep knotting!

All the best,
Dave Lambert

From the Editor's Blotter

This issue shows us that not all is what it first seems! We think we have a handle on something and it turns out not to be a handle after all, but a snare-loop. History is difficult to write about (Sarah Palin apparently re-writes it, according to her detractors) in the present because we only have our current viewpoint and, were we to have been present at the time of its original occurrence, we may not have seen it that way at all. As a forensic engineer I find it quite difficult at times to get people to separate the ideas of cause and effect - the earthquake you just felt and the crack you later saw develop may not be cause and effect but rather cause and defect.

We have before us a panoply of history - who said what at the AGM is encapsulated in several different ways, likely none of which could ever capture the timbre or tone of a response or the stance adopted when making a statement or the personal history of the speaker. Nonetheless, when we come to examine what was the outcome of our AGM we have the observations in writing of two knowledgeable and erudite persons from which to draw, written at different times and with a separate view. Neither one is wrong in each writer's view, and neither may reflect the whole of what someone else saw or heard.

This same phenomenon happens with knots. One person sees a bowline, another says this is a sheet bend structure and yet another says that it is merely a loop around a bight. None can say what is a knot although many have tried. None can tell what vision another has. Yet somehow, midst all this confusion, we manage to tell each other about something, recent to ourselves, that we want to share. Knotting is not yet a scientific study, although some people study knots scientifically. There is no known or world-wide acceptance of naming convention for knots, some even having different names, quite apart from language differences. Chemists and linguists seem to think that it should be straightforward and yet none have achieved the Holy Grail of a unique knot-naming convention.

Rob Chisnall exhorts us as a Guild (p. 30, this issue) to take on this task. Who will bell the cat? How shall we proceed? Should we ask at a learned instituition for guidance or should we ourselves struggle with this lexicology problem, suitable of a modern Linnaeus? Is it worth the struggle or should we just shrug our shoulders and say "Not my problem", secure in the knowledge that the individual can still tie knots, so who cares what others want or need to know about names. Can we solve the problem by evolutionary analysis? How do we ever admit a new knot? Let me know your thoughts please!

Until next time, fair leads and shapely knots to you all,
Lindsey

How I Did It
BOWLINE VARIATIONS

by Owen K. Nuttall

PERFECTION BOWLINE

This bowline is based on the Perfection Loop (Angler's Loop). My method of tying this is shown in KM 80, pp 46 - 47. This is tied by pulling loop B through A and tightening. If this knot is taken a stage further after putting loop B through A then taking loop A back in the opposite direction, then holding loop B and pulling on the standing part, the end result is the PERFECTION BOWLINE. [***Take note of the 'flip' of the tag-end to get to Stage III - Ed***]

MYOSOTIS BOWLINE

This is a spin-off of my knot ANGELS WINGS in KM 17, 1986 and it remained misplaced until the theme for the West Yorkshire meeting in March was "Knots Tied in the Bight." Looking back through misplaced knotting drawings it came to light, so I called it MYOSOTIS, after the flower 'Forget-Me-Knot.' In tying after Fig 3, hook the two loops with your thumb and pull the two standing parts in the opposite direction, until the knot bunches up. Then pull the two loops in opposite directions, adjust the knots to finish.

LINFIT SLIDING BOWLINE

This is a bowline similar to the Spanish Bowline, where the two loops are actually one loop. I am not an advocate of loops sliding from one to the other, though they do have their uses. To tie after Fig. 4, hook the two loops with your thumb and complete as the MYOSOTIS BOWLINE method.

BOWLINE VARIATIONS (cont'd)

PERFECTION BOWLINE

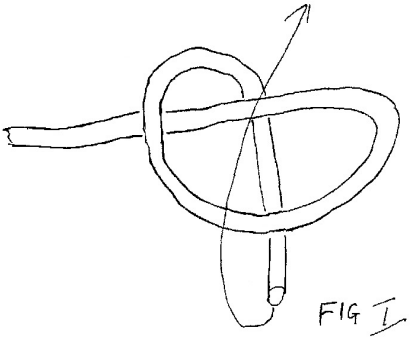
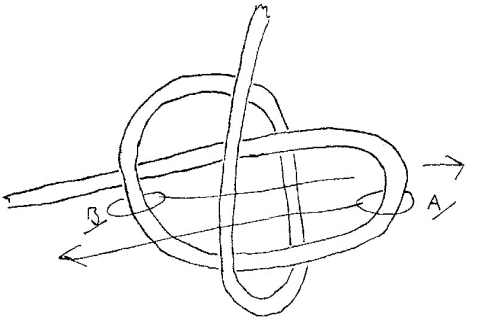


FIG I



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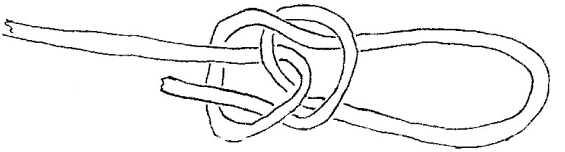
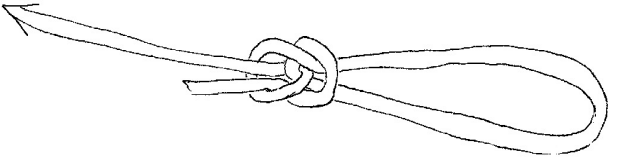
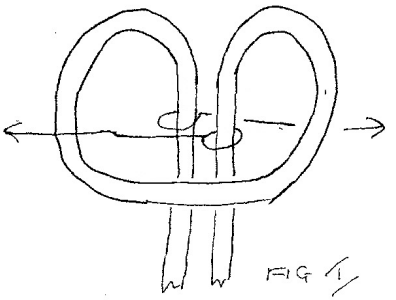


FIG III



FACE OF KNOT

MYOSOTIS BOWLINE



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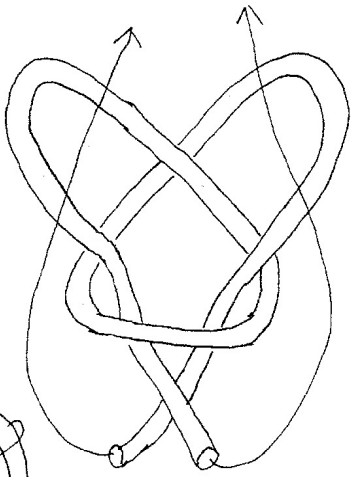

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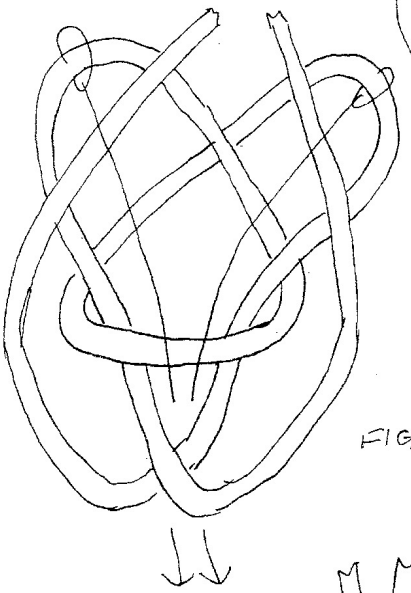
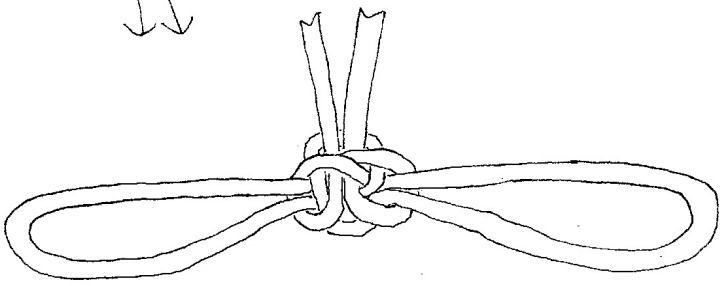
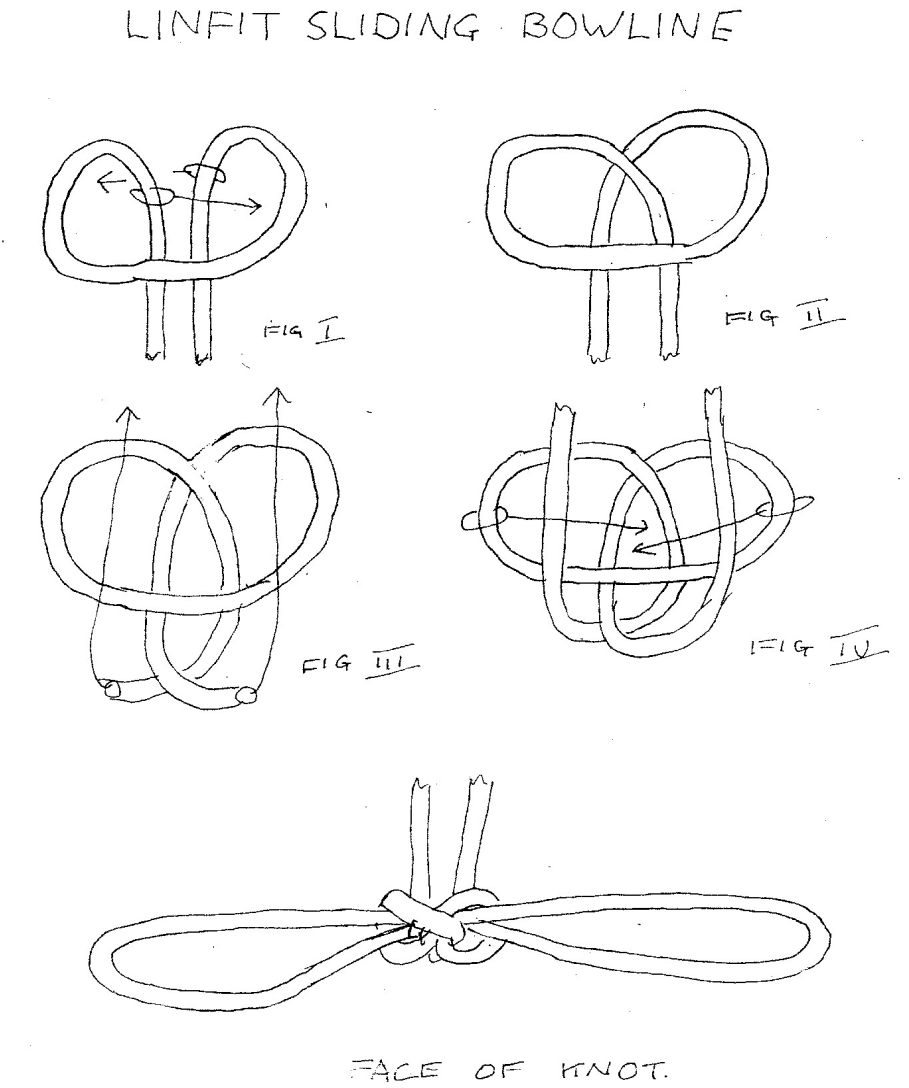


FIG III



FACE OF KNOT



Theory of Hitches *by Benjamin F. Bayman, Univ. of Minnesota, MN (1976) as publ. in Am. J. of Phys., Vol 45, #2, Feb. 1977*

Abstract: If one end of a rope is tied to a pole and the other end is pulled, the hitch may slip or it may hold fast. In this paper we present a method of predicting which will happen. The topology of the hitch determines an inequality involving the coefficients of friction characteristic of the rope and pole. If this inequality is satisfied, the different turns of the hitch press on each other, and on the pole, to produce a self-locking unit that can withstand an arbitrarily strong pull.

Diary Dates 2011/2012

Half-yearly meeting 2011

Dates:- From the evening of Friday 7th – Sunday 9th October, 2011
Place:- Gloucester Waterways Museum, Llanthony Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester, GL1 2EH
We hope to organise a visit to or a talk from the T. Nielsen Boatbuilders and Riggers and, possibly, a trip on the Gloucester Docks and Sharpness Canal.

AGM 2012

Dates:- From the evening of Friday 11th – Sunday 13th May
Place:- Hoylake Community Centre, 31 Hoyle Road, Wirral, Merseyside CH47 3AG

The

International Guild of Knot Tyers

along with the IGKT-North American Branch

and the IGKT-NAB Knot in the Middle Chapter

Announce a Joint

2011

More to Come Soon!

Half Yearly Guild Meeting

Bi-Annual Guild Meeting

Early Release Details Pending

Quarterly Guild Meeting

to be held in **October 2011**.

Training - Teaching - Tying / Official Official Business / Places to Visit

When: October 7 - 9, 2011

Where: Indianapolis, Indiana, USA

Venue: Embassy Suites Indianapolis - North
3912 Vincennes Road
Indianapolis, Indiana, United States 46268
Tele: (317) 872-7700 Fax: (317) 872-2974

Early Release Details Pending

http://embassysuites1.hilton.com/en_US/es/hotel/INDNHES-Embassy-Suites-Indianapolis-North-Indiana/index.do

PLEASE NOTE: An actual Direct link to IGKT Hotel Reservations Page is pending. When available, the link will allow our members to book thier rooms on-line and receive the appropriate group rate we have negotiated. Please wait for that link before you make you reservations with the hotel. Alternatively, you may call in your reservations. If so, be sure you reference the IGKT event.

Officially planned for Friday through Sunday (October 7-9, 2011), the Knotters in the KitM Chapter are working hard to arrange local site seeing opportunities for our members from out of town/state/country. We are hoping to provide our visitors with oppotunities to see points of interest beginning on Thursday and running through Monday. The actual timing and locations is pending and will be framed around the needs and desires of our registered Members.

For **more information,**
to offer your knowledge as one of our **trainers,**
or to contribute suggested **"Must Do's"** to be included in the event,
please contact Rusty Helms.

Initial Contact Information = Rusty@HelmsCPA.com (Memo: IGKT Meeting) or

East Anglian Branch Meeting

by Irene Warner

The East Anglian Branch meeting was held on Saturday 19th March, usual venue, the Windmill Room of Abbots Hall Primary School, Stowmarket. On display was a plaque of the IGKT logo with lettering by Skip Pennock, brought along by Des, who explained that it had come into his possession following the death of its creator David Tate. Volunteers to store and return this to each meeting were sought and Stuart took on the first occasion.

Bill Marshall from Chelmsford, formerly a member of the Essex Branch, was welcomed to his first Branch meeting, though most had met him at last summer's outdoor gathering. Volunteers were also requested to take turns in preparing and submitting the Branch report.

The programme included the chosen theme of Loopy Loops, plus our regular topic My Favourite Knot. There was some debate on how people learn knots; it seems that most prefer diagrams to being shown by demonstration. Left-handedness was Left-handedness was included and also, in Bill's experience, an armless Scout who could tie with his feet.

Stuart's rolling hitch stimulated much interest. This had been of great help in tying up his boat in various locations. Tony had brought along his laptop and showed a film of Roy Rogers' lassooing skills. Liz had brought her mat to show how the plaited material was joined to the outside edge with a form of garter stitch knitting using a rod threaded through the stitches. Des showed specialist fenders for RNLI inflatable boats, etc. Mike showed the result of a dog lead challenge set him by his daughter, although the new puppy turned out to be much smaller than anticipated and therefore the lead much heavier than needed. Other applications for looping were shown by members. The meeting was told of an interesting display of basket-making, with examples from around the world, on for a while at the Sainsbury Centre, UEA in Norwich, and well worth a visit.

The next meeting date was arranged for Saturday 1st October, usual venue and the programme agreed as 'Sennits and Such', a topic inspired by Bill's collection of colourful examples made for training purposes, plus the regular feature 'My favourite knot'. Visitors and new members will be made very welcome. For more information contact:-
des@despawson.com or by telephone 01473 690090

West Yorkshire Branch

We must be doing things right in our Branch. We decided about nine years since on the format of two meetings a year, one in March and one in November, and we are getting greater numbers every time. Whilst we go by the title of West Yorkshire Branch it`s a bit of a misnomer; it`s held in West Yorkshire and organised by locals but the attendees come from lots of other areas, and very welcome they are, they make the meeting more rewarding. We had over twenty members at this meeting. The March meeting had a theme of "Knots tied in the bight" and Graham Smith gave a presentation where he had identified twenty eight of these knots and challenged the meeting to find others. After the presentation one of our members showed us a piece of equipment from his

tool box which he uses when tying multi – strand knots. It is a tool that he used in a previous occupation as a farmer, and was used for castrating sheep. We do have some ingenuity. The mind boggles! The meeting carried on after lunch with ad-hoc discussion groups and finished as is usual and proper with afternoon tea supplied by the ladies (They bring buns and cakes it`s smashing).

Our next branch meeting is November 20th - all welcome. We`re doing O.K. long may it continue!
David Pearson

To Wear or (K)not to Wear?

- THAT IS THE QUESTION
For years now I have attended many knotting meetings and events and I have taken note of what the best dressed knotters wear. Most items are unisex. Where to start?
Belts – tooled or braided leather or cord.
Jewellery -home made by self, knotting partner or friend . Earrings can be mini fenders or Celtic or flat knots. Necklaces can be in various materials; different knots; combinations of knots and beads or braided cords (home made of course).
Bracelets – braided or macramé, leather or cord, cord with beads, numerous options.
Rings – braided, knotted, forged or any other process that appeals to the individual's mind.
Brooches - a variety of designs of flat knots; dragonflies, star knots etc.
For ladies :- all jewellery will of course be colour co-ordinated to your clothing.
Metallic jewellery - a large range can be obtained from fashion outlets, and more personal and exclusive designs made by metallurgists or silversmith chums.
Hat or lapel pin - star knots are a favourite.
Lanyards - for neck or belt, numerous designs and materials. Also, **Scarf** rings and woggles
Hat bands and **Caps** with knotted adornments; anything from knotty logos e.g . "knot really" or " I`m a frayed knot", to little knotted animals (see FCB in Tasmania) or a variety of knots.
Clothes- we have smocks, multi pocketed gilets for practical outings; printed or elaborately embroidered waistcoats for smarter or more formal occasions (e.g. daughter's wedding).
Ties- with guild logo or bow tie (self -tied of course).
Cargo pants-multi pocketed. Tool belt pouches and needle hitched or covered knife sheath
Spectacle retaining cord
Hair scrunchies - leather thongs ?
Dangly key fobs, mobile phone adornments and fancy zip pulls.
Scarves- cravats, neckers – bought or made with material showing a knotted or maritime theme
A predominance of shaggy hair and beards - (too busy to go to the barbers ?)
Not strictly worn, but if a **walking stick** is needed, it must be beautifully covered
T-shirts or sweat shirts etc.-These can be in uniform colours (worn by the more affluent Branches), or with silly mottos and knotty text for those North of the Watford Gap (or exiled Yorkshire men)
A distinctive "recognise me" item- often a showy hat. If the hat fits, wear it, you know who you are.

To all knotting folks- I could expand a great deal on all these categories and it would run to dozens of pages, however I leave it to your own imagination so to do.

In the event of anybody taking exception to this article, just remember:-
It is YOU who is wearing it l !

Sheila Pearson
Knotter and Knotters wife

Alaskan Branch
Every Wed. evening 6:30 to 8:00
Anchorage Senior Center
1300 E 19th Avenue, Anchorage
Contact Mike Livingstone
Tel: (1) 907/929-7888

East Anglian Branch
Contact: Des Pawson
Tel: +44(0) 1473 690 090
e-mail: des@despawson.com

French Branch
Contact Graham Maclachlan
www.igktfrance.com

German Branch
Contact: Peter Willems
IGKT Deutsche Sektion e.V.
c/o Schifffahrtsmuseum
Schiffbruecke 39
24939 Flensburg, Germany
Telephone: xx49 173 46 34 679
Email: info@knotengilde.de

Midlands Branch
The Old Swan, Netherton
Contact: Bruce Turley
Tel: 0121 453 4124

Northwest Branch
Contact: Dave Walker
Tel: 01244 682 117

Netherlands
Every last Saturday (except Dec.)
De Hoop, Rotterdam
Contact: Jan Hoefnagel
Tel: 078 614 6002

NAB - Mid-Atlantic Region
Contact: Michael Pollock
See handbook for details

NAB - Knot in the Middle
Contact: Rusty Helms
See Handbook for details

Pacific Americas Branch
Second Tuesday of each month
Los Angeles Maritime Institute
San Pedro, California
Contact: Jimmy Williams
Tel: (1) 310/679-6864
e-mail: igktpab@gmail.com

Solent Branch
Second Tues. of even-number months
Fareham Sailing and Motor Boat Club
Fareham, Hants, UK
Contact: Ken Yalden
Tel: +44(0) 23 9225 9280

Surrey Branch
Meetings are held at Guildford District Scout Centre, Nightingale Road, Guildford, starting at 20:00 hrs. Please phone for more details
Contact: Peter Goldstone
Tel: +44(0) 1483 763 054

Sweden
Contact: Olof Nystrom Tel: 08 265 065
Pille Repmakar'n Tel: 08 6110144

West Country Knotters
Last Sat. of odd months @13:00 hrs
The Benjamin Perry Boathouse Activity and Training Centre
Phoenix Wharf, Lower Guinea Street, Bristol BS1 6TJ
Contact: Richard Hopkins for directions
Tel: 0117 986 7146
May be subject to change - call first

West Yorkshire Branch
Contact: David Pearson
Tel: 0113 257 2689

Back cover - interesting bottle covering from Frank Charles Brown - cord is said to be over 100 years old!
My apologies to Joe Bennett for improperly changing his name in the last issue - it was Joe Bennett who made the bag and not John Heselton - mea culpa!